

7-036 2002

Brian Raywid letter
Suggestion Boris M support
Committee**Subject: Dr.Muntyanu Boris support group****Date: Mon, 29 Apr 2002 12:14:21 +0000****From: "Boris Muntyanu" <romentsa@hotmail.com>****To: ustiben.2@NTLWORLD.COM, parnobal@SMITHL62.FSNET.CO.UK**

From: BRIAN RAYWID <raywid@HOTMAIL.COM> > Reply-To: 'Traveller-Net' Network <TRAVELLER-NET@JISMAIL.AC.UK> > Date: Thu, 11 Apr 2002 13:09:13 +0100 > To: TRAVELLER-NET@JISMAIL.AC.UK > Subject: Suggestion for a Boris Muntyanu Support Committee >

Dear all, >

> Boris Muntyanu, who most of you will know is a Ukrainian Romani asylum > seeker living in Southampton, is desperately in need of any support he can > get. On Monday he showed me a list of several people who have helped him or > have expressed willingness to help him remain here. These include the > pastor of his local Pentecostal church, a doctor at a local hospital, a > senior academic at the University of Southampton, and several Romani rights > activists known to nearly all on this list. My initial thoughts are that, > rather than people acting purely as individuals, it might be more effective > if they all got together via e-mail and there was a 'Boris Muntyanu Support > Committee' keeping in touch and pooling resources to help his appeal (due in > a few weeks) and day to day advice and support as he needs it (he's on > computer and phone). Unfortunately I am imminently going to be abroad for a > spell of several weeks and off trav for at least a week from this afternoon. > If anyone is interested in helping to form or support such a committee > please e me on my <raywid@hotmail.com> address. Would such a committee be a > good thing for an asylum seeker to have behind them from a Home Office > perspective? Boris appears to be in favour of the idea, when I mooted it, > but at the moment it's just an idea. > Brian Raywid.

29 APRIL 2002**The aves bahtale Romale!**

(I am wishing happy to all people)

I am Dr. Boris Muntyanu, asylum seeker

I have decided to appeal to your attention and political support.

My appeal to the Court will be in a 4-5 weeks. I haven't possibilities to give evidence new information relatively my case and my persecution in Ukraine.

Pastor Brian Wallis has received information from my barrister (Dover) then I will have appointment in one week before session siting. I am absolutely convinced that will be late, because I haven't any information from any person involved in my appeal.

Also, as a member of Human Rights movement, here in Britain I accumulated experience about procedure of deportation asylum seekers.

Therefore I have decided to appeal to the next organisation for receiving of political recognition about myself, political support.

To: British Romany Council, Euro-Roma, Trans-European Roma Federation, Roma -Support, Roma - Opres, Second Congress of Romany Union, Southampton' inhabitants support group, European Romany Rights Center:

Add to 7.034 02

100A Waterloo Road
Southampton
SO15 3BT

Email: romentsa@hotmail.com

Tel: 0760142767

Dear Sir/Madam

I am the President of the Odessa Roma Regional Congress "Bahtalo drom" (Ukraine).

I represent the political-cultural and human Rights of Romany Community of Southern Ukraine.

My political activity has caused me to suffer severe persecution.

The events between 31st March and 9th May 2001 made it impossible for me to continue to live in the Ukraine. I had to flee the country because of repeated death threats.

I would like to describe what happened, who persecuted me and the reasons why I was persecuted.

1. I was persecuted by drug Mafia.

At the present moment the Ukraine, especially Odessa, seems to be a drug transit area between Latin America, Asia and Central Europe.

For years, the drug dealers abused and used the Romany nationals in their business taking advantage of the fact that they were marginalized and treated as second-class citizens.

So the Romany camps became transit points for the Mafia involved crime.

As a president of the Regional Romany Congress I fought actively to protect our camps against the influence of the drug Mafia.

I organised in the Romany camps Christian Evangelistic meetings with the support of the Romany members of the church. As a direct result of our preaching many members of the camp involved in drug dealing changed their way of life and decided to stop collaborating with the Mafia.

2. The Romany nationals have become the object robberies and assassinations conducted by highly specialist Mafia who are not Romany nationals.

As a member of the jury I was often involved in the trial of those who were arrested (in the Ukraine it is very common for members of the public to be called more than once for jury service). I always requested that in these cases the most severe laws and punishments should apply.

3. The ex KGB of Ukraine and the Police department.

All my activity in the position of the president of the Regional Romany Congress had as a main objective the creation of Romany National – Cultural Autonomy.

We have worked towards:

- a. the creation of an independent Romany Orthodox Church;
- b. the re-creation of the Romany Cazak regiments (new formation) to undertake policing duties.
- c. a programme of integration called "Roma of Odessa", as a basic model for the government's programme "Roma of Ukraine";

- d. The Romany Congress has issued 3 articles of law regarding the integration process of Romany nationals in society. They were subsequently submitted to parliament.

The 3 articles of law were:

- o we are "Romany nation" and not "Gypsies";
- o the parliament should acknowledge the fact that the Romany people have been deported twice by the Communist government, while other ethnic communities who suffered the same treatment at the hands of Communism have later been re-assimilated into society, the Romany ethnic minority is still treated as outcast and has no rights;
- o the Romany language should be acknowledged and the government should financially support its development.

Despite of our efforts to help the development and progress of Ukrainian society the Government did not acknowledge our programme of integration. Instead they started making threatening home calls, asking me to give up my political activity.

On 6th 2001 April I was elected as president of the Romany Congress of Odessa. Two weeks before this I was warned by two secret security agents that if I didn't pull out of these elections I was going to have problems.

After my election as President I was often informally invited to meet with the agents but I did not want to because it would have been dangerous for me.

In February and March 2001 the political situation in Ukraine was very unsettled. At the beginning of March the national TV channel broadcast on two occasions programmes that discriminated against the Romany community.

On 31st March while I was walking along the street a man stopped me and beat me up because I didn't want to give up my political involvement. I reported the incident to the police on the same day but they didn't want to ask witnesses to give evidence. Instead I was immediately sent to a medical centre to obtain a medical report but I was refused treatment and no report was ever passed to the police. Following this incident I had to receive medical treatment at home.

On 5th April I organised a Media Conference that focused on the TV racial programmes that had been broadcast at the beginning of March. There it was decided that the TV station involved had committed a crime by breaking the Constitution of the Ukraine so we decided to take the case to the Supreme Court of Justice in Kiev – this decision was broadcast on local TV that evening. Next day I received a letter from the local police that stated that they were not willing to look into the incident when I was attacked in the street. Their explanation for this was that they dealt with crime not political issues!

On 20th April 2001 the local government organised a meeting between the local city council and members of the Romany community to elect a new president of the Romany Congress to replace me. Thus they breached constitutional law regarding relations between government and public organisations. One of the main organisers of this meeting was Sergei Nicolaevitch Ermoshkin, a university teacher who was also a KGB agent, known by those in the Romany world as 'Nico Rergo'. The meeting did not succeed in changing the president because the Romany community would not accept it.

At the beginning of May I wrote a letter of protest to the local government about their involvement in Romany matters and their breaking of constitutional law. On 9th May, at 10.00p.m. I received a telephone call with the threat that if I did not leave the country within 24 hours I and my family would be killed. This threat was part of the local government's strategy to stop me attending the European Ethno-Cultural Forum ('Dunarea de Jos' in the Romany language) on 25th May in the city of Ismail (Odessa region, Ukraine). They knew that I had arranged a protest involving Romany nationals from Ukraine, Moldova and Romania. Our objective was to let Europe know about the Ukrainian government's racist policies towards the Romany community. This latest threat was very serious and was not going to fail. I was told on the phone that they would watch my every move, starting at midnight, and that failure to comply with their demand to leave would result in death for my whole family.

At 5.00a.m. on 10th May I left Ukraine, together with my family. I left my family in hiding in a neighbouring country, in the care of some distant relatives, and travelled on myself to find a safer place in western Europe.

I purchased a ticket for the ferry from Ostend to Dover, sailing on 4th August. On arrival at Dover I went straight to

Immigration Officers to ask for help.

On 21st August I was transferred to Southampton.

On 7th November I had an interview with the Home Office, at Croydon.

On 8th April 2002 I received notice of refusal from the Home Office.

Now I would like to describe my activity in the U.K. since 4th August 2001:

1. I have been studying a full-time English course at Southampton City College, towards the IELTS qualification.
2. I have obtained details of the British equivalents to my educational qualifications.
3. I am involved in the 'British Refugee Doctors Programme'.
4. I work in the local hospital as a health care assistant.
5. Together with other leaders of the Romany community from Europe I founded the Trans-European Romany Federation.
6. I have written a book about Romany culture and the Human Rights Movement in Ukraine. This is yet to be published.

At present my wife and my two young daughters are still in hiding. They live in Romany camps and they have never experienced this lifestyle before. My older daughter, who is 12 years old, recently had to undergo surgery. My younger daughter, who is 9 years old, suffers from deep depression caused by our separation. My wife has had pneumonia. So my family are in a very difficult situation and, together with my friends made here in the U.K. I pray that God may keep them safe and well.

I am very grateful to the British Government for the sanctuary I have been given here in the U.K. I would like to be accepted in this country as a political activist for the Romany community, which is persecuted in the Ukraine.

I am very grateful for your support in this matter. If you wish to see any documents, video materials etc that support these facts please let me know.

(My thanks to Mr and Mrs Tabry for helping me to translate this message.)

Asylum seeker (NASS Ref. 010802544001)

Boris Muntyanu

Dr., MB., Ph.D.(aviation, space and marine medicine)

P.S.

I.

Southampton' inhabitants support group:

1. Pastor Brian Wallis – co-ordinator of support group.

tel: (023)80905936; mob:077 89 681 8062; Email: bjv1808@hotmail.com

<elimhristiancentre@ukonline.co.uk>

2. Rayvid Brian – co-ordinator of support group.

Tel:023 8044 1253; Email: raywid@hotmail.com

3. Barbara Fox, businessman.

Tel:80787478; Email: barbarafox@ouvip.com

4. Chris Dunn

Tel: 023 80 67 9064; Email: mrchris@galvatron.freeseve.co.uk

5. Dr.E.O.Abu- Southampton General Hospital. Consultant in chemical pathology.

Tel(work): 02078203138 extend:6433; mob:07961102453

6. Nicky Torode, Minority Right Croup International. Email: nicky.torode@female.ru**7. Yan Puffett**. Tel:017 94 36 8467**8. Len Smith** – leader of British Romany Community.

Email: parnobal@SMITHL62.FSNET.CO.UK

9. Teachers from Southampton City College.

Trish Soolikhan - language school co-ordinator. Tel: 8057 7333

II.**Details of the solisitors who will be working on my apeal:**

Refuge Legal Center, Dover.

Tel: 01304203003; Facsimile: 01304203663

Solicitor: Mick Deans

Barrister: Peter Key

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